



**Richard Fimbres**  
Councilmember  
Ward 5

**FREQUENTLY USED  
PHONE NUMBERS**

Emergency Services  
TPD & TFD  
DIAL 911

Permits 791-5550  
Housing Assistance  
791-4739

TCC - 791-5522

Code Enforcement &  
Graffiti removal  
792-CITY (2489)

Trash Pick up &  
Environmental  
Services 791-3171

Transportation &  
Street Maintenance  
- 791-3154

Tucson Water  
Billing - 791-3242  
Public Info. - 791-4331

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# City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 10

May 2012

## A LETTER FROM COUNCILMEMBER FIMBRES

Dear Friends:

Since I last wrote, there have been many events have been going on in our City and Ward, something I want to update you all on.

**BUDGET UPDATE:** The Mayor and Council have continued their discussions about the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2013, which would go into effect on July 1.

City staff met with the Council offices and the Mayor, about the FY 2013 budget. According to City staff, the projected budget deficit would be around \$15 to \$20 million for Fiscal Year 2013. Since becoming your Councilmember, sworn in on December 7, 2009, this is the fourth budget deficit that has had to be dealt with.

Eight days after being sworn into office as your Councilmember, the Mayor and Council were informed that there was a shortfall of \$33.5 million for that current Fiscal Year (FY 2010). Six months later, it was a \$44.5 million dollar budget deficit for FY 2011 and then it was a \$55 million dollar deficit for FY 2012.

With this year's proposal and projected budget deficit, we are beginning to see "light at the end of the tunnel," but there is still work to be done.

For this upcoming budget, City Manager Richard Miranda has undertaken a line-item by line review of the City budget with each Department Director. This process provided the City Manager with an understanding of the detailed work program of each department, and has aided in identifying new savings, efficiency, and funding opportunities.

At the May 15, Mayor and Council meeting, the Council will be approving a tentative budget. A final budget would be approved on June 5.

**BRING BACK THE SPLASH UPDATE:** The City's "Bring Back the Splash" Program, has now received a \$100,000 in sponsorships and advertising to help re-open six pools which had been closed.

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Ward 5 Council  
Office Staff

Executive Assistant  
Eileen S. Contreras

Council Aides  
Melinda Jacobs  
Mark Kerr  
John Ferra



Help those who are in need. Give to the Community food Bank. For more information, call 520-622-0525

Congratulations go out to Rick Stertz, Doug Martin, Crissy Perham, the City's Parks and Recreation Department and Parks Foundation and most importantly, to those individuals, organizations and businesses who are helping, bring back the splash, which this additional funding will now open six pools.

This idea came during budgetary meeting last year. I had asked Fred Gray, the Parks and Recreation Director, about whether Parks could solicit sponsorships or advertising, such as on Recreation centers or in their guides.

Gray stated that there was an ordinance on the books which prohibited Parks from doing so. I brought a motion forward to repeal this ordinance, which had been on the books since 1986. By a 7 to 0 vote, on February 1, 2011, my colleagues on the Mayor and Council agreed to repeal this ordinance.

When the closing of 17 City pools happened due to budgetary constraints, my colleagues and I were concerned about this, because of the lack of opportunities for people to swim and become healthier, as national trends show how swimming can make a person more physically fit.

During the 2011 National Day of Prayer Breakfast in Tucson, I was having a conversation with businessmen Doug Martin and Rick Stertz and I brought up the subject of the pools closing. They asked if something could be done about it, maybe having businesses advertise at pools and taking those proceeds to open those pools that had been closed during the summer because of the budget.

Martin and Stertz met with the Parks Department to come up with an initiative, and launched a private-public partnership and effort to help Tucson's closed pools. Another part of this effort was Crissy Perham, the former Olympic Gold Medalist and now community relations director for the Tucson Padres. Crissy did some wonderful public service announcements about "Bring Back The Splash."

Meanwhile, the Mayor and Council, as well as a local organization took action as well. With the agreement for a cell-telephone tower in Ward 5, in August 2011, I directed the \$100,000 in revenue to be earmarked to open pools. Later in 2011, Councilmember Karin Uhlich directed the proceeds from the transfer of the Pascua Neighborhood Center to be directed the savings, of \$93,000, towards opening more pools. In addition, the Catalina Rotary Club raised \$25,000 to sponsor Jacobs Pool.

With the plan for the public/private partnership complete, it was presented to Mayor and Council. On January 18, 2012, the Mayor and Council affirmed their support for this with a unanimous vote, and the rest has been history and a great start, for the first year of this public-private partnership.

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Recently, Tucson Police Chief Roberto Villasenor announced that RICO Funds, about \$100,000, will be used to sponsor swim lessons for 4,800 young people and provide swimming safety gear.

I look forward to seeing you all at the six pools to be opened by "Bring Back the Splash": Jacobs Pool, 1010 W. Lind St., Palo Verde Pool, 300 S. Mann Ave., Purple Heart Pool, 9800 E. Rita Rd., Mansfield Pool, 2000 N. 4th Ave., Menlo Pool, 1000 W. Fresno St., Himmel Pool, 1000 N. Tucson Blvd.

**WHY I MADE THE MOTION FOR RICHARD MIRANDA TO BE THE NEXT CITY MANAGER:** At the May 8, Mayor and Council meeting, I made the motion to name Richard Miranda as Tucson's next City Manager. Here are my remarks from the Council meeting:

During my time in office, the City government has faced four budget deficits, reductions in sales tax revenue, as well as state shared revenue being swept.

The City has had a change in management leadership, as well as more than 1,000 positions being eliminated through attrition.

We have seen change at the top of city departments, as well as long-time, city employees, leaving their service with the City of Tucson.

We are now seeing that sales-tax revenues are increasing.

New approaches are being utilized to provide services to the public, with the help and collaboration with the private sector.

The City is closer to the "light at the end of this economic tunnel."

Now, the Mayor and Council have crucial budgetary decisions to make, as well as what services will be provided, and at what cost.

A new team of department directors are being selected to oversee the various city departments. Crucial positions, such as Transportation Director and I.T. Director are to be filled.

For more than seven months, the interim City Manager quietly put together individuals to help in his effort in managing the city government.

He has held people accountable for their actions and made changes when necessary.

When a problem arose, he has come up with solutions for these problems.

If someone has an idea about conducting city government more efficiently, it is heard and considered.

These past seven months have shown a new resolve by our city employees, a new determination and an increased effort to serve the public, even with the restricted

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amount of funds presently in the city budget.

The work has begun on Tucson's streetcar. More new local businesses have opened through the streamlined Certificate of Occupancy Process.

Tucson is getting closer to seeing the light at the end of the economic tunnel and right now, we need an experienced individual leading these efforts to oversee city government, modernize, streamline and transform it.

For the foreseeable future, the City of Tucson needs an individual who cares about this City.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY FAIR:** Hundreds of Tucson residents came out to the Health and Safety Fair, held on April 28th, at El Pueblo Neighborhood Center. I want to thank everybody that came out and enjoyed the fair.

Thanks to Tohono O'odham Nation for the grant for the car booster seats and bike helmets, the Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 5 Offices helped over 80 families by receiving a car seat and/or booster seat and all the children who attended the fair received a bike helmet. In total 108 car seats and booster seats were given out to the families and 135 children received a bike helmet.

Breakfast and lunch were provided to the families at the fair: Hotdogs, hamburgers, bagels and cream cheese, juices, coffee, water, popcorn, pastries, bananas, granola bars and much more.

Families were also provided with lots of good information from our community partners: Tucson Police Department, Tucson Fire Department, El Pueblo Senior Center, Henry Quinto Day Care, Luz Southside Coalition, Health Choice, Tucson Clean and Beautiful, PPEP Tech, Tucson Academy of Learning, The Community Food Bank/Gabriel Giffords Family Assistance Center, Pima County Attorney's Office, Kool Smiles, and United Health who provided blood pressure checks and DNA kits for kids. I want to thank my great staff, John Ferra, Eileen Soto, Mark Kerr and Melinda Jacobs for their hard work setting up this fair and making it a success. I also want to thank Ward 1 and Ward 2 for providing food and El Pueblo seniors who helped prepare it. In addition, thanks to Carlos Estrada with Circle K for also providing us with food and drinks and to Fry's Foods.

In addition, I want to thank Congressman Raul Grijalva; Jennie Becenti, Tohono O'odham Nation Executive Director of Human & Health Services; Rupert Encinas, Tohono O'odham Nation; Cherry Jackson, Trinity Hope Church of God in Christ; Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Councilmember Regina Romero; Demetri Downing & Mary Fimbres, Representing Ward 2; Tucson Fire Chief Jim Critchley; Tucson Police Department Lieutenant Matt Ronstadt and Sergeant Mary Kay Slyter; Steve Ramirez, Business and Community Director at Fred G. Acosta Job Corp; Richard Barker, Maria Cardenas and Paul Ponce from the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center and all the seniors from El Pueblo Senior Center and the Job Corp volunteers.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next health and safety fair in the fall.

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**WARD 5 TOWN HALL:** Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 24, 6 to 8 p.m. I will be hosting a Town Hall meeting at the Fred G. Acosta Job Corps, 901 South Campbell. There will be updates of projects ongoing in Ward 5 and Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild will be there to speak about his 180 day plan. For more information, call the Ward 5 Council Office, 791-4231.

**GRAFFITI ABATEMENT:** Ward 5 held a graffiti abatement event in the South Park Neighborhood. Taking part in this event was the South Park Neighborhood Association, Lupe Mercado and GPC, and the staff and students of the Fred G. Acosta Job Corps.

I want to thank: Carl Rosborough, Director of the Fred G. Acosta Job Corps, Steve Ramirez, as well as the staff and especially the students for taking part in the abatement effort. Captain Ramon Batista and Sgt. Jack Woolridge of TPD, and the other TPD officers, for their presence and help. Maggie Gerring and Pat Garcia with the South Park Neighborhood Association, for their work. Melinda Jacobs from my office for her work in coordinating this event.

**SOLAR LIGHTS CELEBRATION:** Recently was the celebration of Barrio Centro Neighborhood new solar lights. Thanks to a reinvestment grant from Pima County, this project became a reality. Congratulations to Ivo Ortiz, German Quiroga and the Barrio Centro Neighborhood Association.

**TUCSON WATER RATE PROPOSAL:** Tucson Water is proposing to increase certain water rate components and fees. On Tuesday, April 17, the Mayor and Council authorized a Public Hearing be held on May 22. In addition to the May 22 Public Hearing, interested persons are encouraged to attend one of four community meetings being held to learn about the budget and rate proposals and provide comments. The public meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, May 15, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Mission Library, 3770 S. Mission Rd. Thursday, May 17, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Miller-Golf Links Library, 9640 E. Golf Links Rd.

A public hearing is scheduled during the May 22 Mayor and Council meeting. Following the hearing, Mayor and Council are expected to vote on whether or not to adopt a new water rate schedule.

More information is available on Tucson Water's website at [tucsonaz.gov/water](http://tucsonaz.gov/water) or at (520) 791-4331.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUE:** Thanks to my colleagues on the Mayor and Council, this building, a health and safety hazard, will soon be history. The City will be negotiating to acquire this parcel, located at 909 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, with the goal of getting this building, which has a collapsing roof and wall, demolished. The owner of property, who had been in court with the City of Tucson Code Enforcement, had indicated she would sell the parcel to the City. The factors of court costs, staff time, potential fines and demolition costs will figure into the negotiations.

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**POST OFFICE UPDATE:** Congressman Raul Grijalva, Pima County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez and I will be meeting to formulate local strategies on keeping the Cherrybell Post Office and processing center open.

There are two federal bills dealing with the issue of closing processing centers working their way through the process. In a press release, the U.S. Postal Service said, "For primary elections after May 15, the U.S. Postal Service is instituting a state-by-state outreach program to address the questions and concerns of election boards, political candidates and mailers." Arizona is one of those states.

**WALMART UPDATE:** Work continues on the new Wal-Mart Super Center at the Bridges. Several Tucson Subcontractors are involved in this project, and they include: A-I Striping, Cascade Electric, Conway Tile, Gale Contractor Services, Hardrock Concrete, Meridian Surveying, Qualified Mechanical, Security Fence of Arizona and Westar Environmental. The construction of the 156,000 square foot super-center is expected to be completed by October.

**LANDMARK PROJECT UPDATE:** The plans for the Landmark Project, located at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Highland, have been approved by Planning and Development Services and the permits have been issued. Borderlands, a Tucson company is doing the site grading and the construction of improvements. The project is on schedule to be opened in August, 2013.

In December 2010, the Landmark project developers scheduled a meeting with me about this proposal. During this meeting, their presentation was made, covering the area of the old, Watson Chevrolet dealership. I had the developers go to those neighborhoods first and the Tucson Urban League to present their proposals to them and would follow up with the neighbors.

South Park Neighborhood Association President Maggie Gerring and Millville Neighborhood Association President George Kalil indicated that these meetings took place and the plans were presented and there wasn't any opposition. The Ward 5 office confirmed that the meetings took place, since this was the neighbors' decision solely. Jonathan Peck of the Tucson Urban League (TUL) confirmed meetings had taken place between the TUL and the developers, since this involved parcels owned by the TUL, for which had been for sale for a long period of time.

In May 2011, I had a meeting with the leadership of TUL, Millville NA and South Park NA, respectively, consisting of Pat Garcia from SPNA and Maggie Gerring from SPNA, George Kalil and Roger Becksted and Jonathan Peck of TUL, and the respective developers. This meeting lasted for a little more than two hours. The developers made another presentation.

I asked the neighborhood leadership and TUL if this was the presentation made to the associations and if there were any other questions. The flood plain, bus pull outs, and other concessions, shuttles to businesses on South Sixth and in South Tucson, students volunteering to help the TUL, as well as the developers supporting the neighborhoods, were made. I asked then if there was any opposition to this



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from the neighborhoods, the neighborhood leadership, the TUL and everyone in the room. He asked each of the NA leaders and Jonathan Peck, all of which said they supported this as well as their neighborhood associations and the TUL.

At the June 28, 2011 Mayor and Council Meeting, it was placed on the consent agenda, for which I had the item considered separately, so that the presentation could be given to Mayor and Council, as well as comments made by those present. <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?eetid=764&doctype=SUMMARY>. The neighborhood leadership was present, along with Jonathan Peck to speak to the Council about the proposal. The developers made their presentation again. I made the motion and it was approved, 7 to 0.

The neighborhoods had follow up meetings after the June 28, 2011 Mayor and Council action, with the developers about the project to get updates. At the January 18, 2012 Mayor and Council meeting, this was finalized. This project also resulted in \$585,000 in HURF (Highway User Revenue Funds), for which I had earmarked for road repair across the City of Tucson.

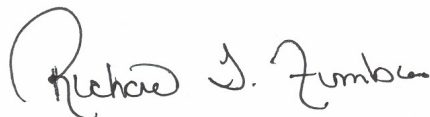
**SHRED A THON:** The Ward 5 Council Office will be holding a shred-a-thon, Saturday, May 12, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The Council Office is located at 4300 South Park. For more information, please call 791-4231. Either \$5 for the Food Bank or food donations for the Community Food Bank are being requested for this event.

**MURAL DEDICATION:** "Inside the Overpass," a mural at the intersection of 29th Street and Columbus Boulevard was unveiled Wednesday, May 9. It is the result of two years of youth-driven work from the Boys & Girls Club. Congratulations to the Boys and Girls Club, the Tucson Arts Brigade, the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Coalition, and all involved with this wonderful project.

**NATIONAL RAILROAD DAY:** On Saturday, May 12, National Railroad Day will be commemorated in Tucson, at the Historic Train Depot, 414 North Toole. Congratulations to Ken Karrells and the Friends at the Depot for their work.

**IN OTHER NEWS:** I want to welcome a nice young man to the Ward 5 Office as an Intern. Daniel Trevizo is a student at the Fred G. Acosta Job Corps. Daniel is a smart young man who is contributing to the efforts of the Ward 5 Office. Welcome aboard Daniel!

Peace.



Richard G. Fimbres

PS: On the next page are pictures from the recent Ward 5 events.

## GRAFFITI ABATEMENT

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## Health and Safety Fair at El Pueblo



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